

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO MESSAGE 191825Z ACTION
STATE OPS CNTR INFO WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM DTD 19 NOV

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FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO PRESIDENTIAL PARTY: RON NESSEN; PETER
RODMAN AND DAVID GOMPERT FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER; ED SAVAGE
PRESIDENT FAR EAST TRIP-II (TAKE ONE OF THREE)

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF 12 NOON
EST, NOVEMBER 18, 1974, PREPARED BY USIA:

SUMMARY

TUESDAY COMMENT IN FOREIGN MEDIA ON THE JAPANESE PART OF THE
PRESIDENT'S TRIP GENERALLY EXPECTED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE
RESULTS EXCEPT "FENCE-MENDING."

COMMENTATORS THOUGHT TE SEOUL VISIT LESS OPPORTUNE, BUT HE LONDON
FINANCIAL TIMES SAID THE AMERICANS COULD TELL PRESIDENT PARK
"THAT HIS REPRESSIVE MEASURES ARE IN DANGER OF JEOPARDIZING ALL THE
GAINS SINCE THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR."

EXPECTATION THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING CAN PROVE USEFUL TO
MR. FORD AND TO U.S. POLICY WAS EXPRESSED IN BRITAIN, FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY, AUSTRIA, HONG KONG, ISRAEL AND TUNISIA. END SUMMARY.

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LONDON AMONG TUESDAY'S HADLINES: "POLICE CONTROL JAPANESE

DEMONSTAT

RS AS FORD ARRIVES" (DAILY TELEGRAPH); "NO MAJOR CLASHES
AS FORD SLIPS IN FOR JAPANESE VISIT" (MANCHESTER GUARDIAN); "FORD
ARRIVAL IN TOKYO MARKS GOVERNMENT VICTORY" (FINANCIAL TIMES).
AN EDITORIAL IN THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL TIMES SAID THE PRESIDENT'S

TRIP, "ON THE FACE OF IT...SEEMED A GOOD IDEA. JAPAN WAS THE POWER
MOST PEREMPTORILY TREATED BY THE NIXON/KISSINGER DIPLOMACY.
CONSTANTLY UPHELD BY DR. KISSINGER AS AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER IN THE
WESTERN ALLIANCE, AS OFTEN AS NOT IT WAS AMONG T E LAST TO BE TOLD
OF MAJOR AMERICAN INITIATIVES AND THERE WAS THUS A GOOD DEAL OF
FENCE-MENDING TO BE DONE.

"THE TIMING HAS TURNED OUT TO BE LESS FORTUNATE... YET IF THE TOKYO

VISIT IS UNFORTUNATE ONLY IN ITS TMING, THE VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA...IS
ALTOGETHER MORE QUESTIONABLE. DR. KISSINGER'S THEORY IS THAT FOR
A U.S. PRESIDENT TO GO TO JAPAN WITHOUT INCLUDING SEOUL IN THE
TRIP WOULD HAVE SIGNALLED A MAJOR SHIFT IN POLICY. PERHAPS; THOUGH
ON THAT LOGIC THERE WILL BE VERY FEW CAPITALS LEFT UNVISITED AND
IT SOUNDS LIKE A RECIPE FOR THE FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF SUMMITRY.
THERE IS A RATHER BETTER CASE FOR THE AMERICANS TELLING PRESIDENT
PARK THAT HIS REPRESSIVE DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE IN DANGER OF
JEOPARDIZING ALL THE GAINS SINCE THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR. AT
BEST, PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DOING
JUST THAT; NORE LIKELY, IT WILL BE A DISTRACTION AT A TIME WHEN
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE DONE.

"THE MEETING WITH MR. BREZHNEV...IS OF A DIFFERENT ORDER,
THOUGH HERE AGAIN THERE IS EVIDENCE OF THE CURIOUS CARELESSNESS
WHICH OCCASIONALLY
ACCOMPANIES DR. KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY... THE
MEETING IS NECESSARY,IF ONLY TO ALLOW THE TWO LEADERS TO TAKE THE
MEASURE OF EACH OTHER. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE
WILL BE A SECOND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT WITOUT MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. THE EXPERTS CAN BEAVER AWAY
AS MUCH AS THEY LIKE IN GENEVA, BUT THE EXPERIENCE OF SALT I IS THAT
IN HE END IT WAS MR. BREZHEV AND MR. NIXON WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE...
(NOW) THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT TRUST.

"THE EXTENT OF THE TRUST THERE IS WILL NO DOUBT DEPEND ON MUTUAL
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE MIDLE EAT. HERE TOO THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING
SHOULD BE USEFUL... THE OBVIOUS POINT FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO
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ESTABLISH IS HOW FAR THE RUSSIANS THEMSELVES ARE WILLING TO PLAY A
PART IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. ON THE ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION, AND THE PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETATION OF IT, MUCH WILL DEPEND."

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STEPHEN BARBER, IN TOKYO TO COVER THE
VISIT, WROTE TODAY IN TODAY'S CONSERVATIVE DALILY TELEGRAPH THAT MR.
KISSINGER WAS "EXPECTED TO OUTLINE HIS NEW SCHEME TO GET THE WESTERN
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMING NATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER TO COPE WITH THE

ENERGY CRISIS... THE JAPANESE ARE KNOWN TO BE VERY RELUCTANT TO GET INTO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY THE ARABS AS 'GANGING-UP' OF CONSUMERS AGAINST (OPEC)..." BARBER CONCLUDED THAT "FORD-KISSINGER POLICY, EVIDENTLY, IS TO ENCOURAGE JAPAN TO PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS BUT NOT TO SEEM TO BE PUSHING TOO HARD."

THE GUARDIAN'S MAN IN TOKYO REPORTED THAT "THE JAPANESE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST OVERSEAS NATION MR. FORD HAS VISITED SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE."

PARIS: IN MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD FIGARO, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JACQUES JACQUET-FRANCILLON, IN TOKYO TO COVER THE PRESIDET, OBSERVED: "DEAR HENRY CALLS THE TUNE... GERALD FORD, A HUNDRED DAYS AFTER HE ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE, HAS VIRTUALLY SURRENDERED THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY TO HENRY KISSINGER. HOW REMOTE THE NIXON ERA ALREADY SEEMS* THE JOURNALISTS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE FROM WASHINGTON TO TOKYO HAVE HARDLY SEEN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE... IT WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO TREATED THEM AS HIS PERSONAL GUESTS AND WHO TALKED WITH THEM AT LENGTH AND VERY FREELY... AS THE PLANE NEARED HANEDA AIRPORT, IT WAS NOT JAPAN THAT SEEMED TO PREOCCUPY KISSINGER. HIS MIND APPEARED TO BE FOCUSED ONLY ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE VLADIVOSTOK MINI-SUMMIT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SECRETARY IS EXPECTING MUCH FROM THAT FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE NEW U.S. PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. HE IS ACTING AS THOUGH HE IS NOW SURE HE CAN COUNT ON GERALD FORD. HIS AIDES DO NOT HIDE IT: HE HAS SPENT MANY HOURS PREPARING FORD FOR THAT TEST. HE NOW CONSIDERS HIM 'SOLID,' THEY SAY...CERTAIN THAT HE WON'T FLINCH, THAT HE WILL FOLLOW TO THE LETTER THE TACTIC HE HAS BEEN TAUGHT. THE STAKES ARE CONSIDERABLE...

"HENRY KISSINGER SEEMS CONVINCED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT HE IS ABOUT TO SUCCEED AND SAYS SO ALMOST OPENLY: THERE IS NOW A BETTER THAN

FIFTY PER CENT CHANCE THAT IN 1975--WHEN MR. BREZHNEV VISITS THE U.S. FOR THE SECOND TIME--HE WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN A TEN-YEAR PACT ON LIMITAION OF BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE STRATEGIC ARMS.
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"BUT IS NOT THE RISING TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST LIKELY TO UPSET THESE CALCULATIONS? IS KISSINGER NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK WITH A BREZHNEV OUT TO TRICK HIM? HE FIERCELY DENIES THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE. HE DOES NOT WANT T BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A FATAL RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS -- AT LEAST NOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN SIX MONTHS FROM NOW IS ANOTHER MATTER, HE ADMITS, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT WITHIN THAT NEXT SIX MONTHS HE WILL HAVE SHORED UP THE ENTENTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION TO THE POIN WHERE A REASONABLE SOLUTION CAN BE ACHIEVED FOR THE PALESTINIA PROBLEM, AND FOR MANY OTHERS AS WELL."

FINANCIAL LES ECHOS OF PARIS TODAY OBSERVED THAT "PRESIDENT FORD HAS A LOT TO GAIN IN AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE FROM THIS FIRST MISSION ABROAD. IF HE MANAGES TO PROVE TO HIS COMPATRIOTS THAT HE ALSO KNOWS

HOW TO TALK WITH BREZHNEV ON AN EQUAL FOOTING HE WILL DISPEL, AT
LEAST IN PART, THE EFFECTS OF HIS RECENT SETBACK IN THE CONGRESSIONAL
ELECTIONS." END TAKE ONE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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